

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ROME 001942

SIPDIS

EUR/ERA FOR HEN-NIL, EB/TPP/ATT FOR PEREZ  
E FOR SHUB  
STATE PASS USTR FOR STROJE, NOVELLI  
STATE PASS USDA FOR APHIS/SMCAMMON,  
USDA/FAS/BLUM  
STATE/FAS/ITP/MACKE, USDA/FAS/OA/SLUTSKY  
STATE PASS FDS FOR EFLAMM

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SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [IT](#) [ETRD](#) [IT](#) [ETRD](#) [IT](#) [ETRD](#) [IT](#) [WTOEAGR](#) [WTOEAGR](#) [WTOEAGR](#) [WTO](#)

SUBJECT: MISSION-ITALY BIOTECH ACTION PLAN

REF: ROME (A) 1697 (B) ROME 1457 (C) ROME

1726

[1](#)1. MISSION ITALY'S BIOTECH WORKING GROUP  
(BWG) HAS MAPPED OUT ITS ACTION PLAN FOR THE  
NEXT SIX MONTHS.

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IT REFLECTS THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF AGR,  
ECON, SCI, PA, FCS, LABOR, CG-MILAN, CG-  
NAPLES, AND CG-FLORENCE.

BECAUSE MISSION ITALY SHARES MANY COMMON  
OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES REGARDING U.S.  
BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY WITH OUR COLLEAGUES FROM  
FODAG AND EMBASSY VATICAN, THE PLAN ALSO  
REFLECTS THEIR INPUT AND WORK PRIORITIES FOR  
THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS.

[1](#)2. THE ACTION PLAN IS DIVIDED INTO TWO  
PARTS. PART I COVERS EMBASSY ITALY'S  
BILATERAL AGENDA; AND PART II COVERS THE

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PAGE 03 ROME 01942 01 OF 04 181506Z  
COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN EMBASSY ROME,  
EMBASSY VATICAN AND FODAG.

[1](#)3. THE PRINCIPAL GOALS OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY  
WORKING GROUP ARE TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN U.S. APPROVED BIOTECH  
PRODUCTS AND TO PROMOTE BIOTECHNOLOGY AS AN  
IMPORTANT PART OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN  
DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. OUR  
STRATEGY IN ITALY IS TO HELP THE GROWING  
NETWORK OF GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIC, INDUSTRIA,  
AND NGO OPINION LEADERS WHO SUPPORT  
BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE ACTION  
PLAN TO COUNTER WELL-ORGANIZED BIOTECH  
OPPONENTS.

BY SUPPORTING THIS POSITIVE NETWORK WITH U.S.  
POLICY MESSAGES, SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, AND  
GRASSROOTS ACTIVITIES SUCH AS FARMER-TO-  
FARMER CONTACTS, AND DIALOGUE WITH OBJECTIVE  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER GROUPS, WE WILL  
STRESS THE BENEFITS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY TO  
GROWERS AND CONSUMERS. WE WILL PROVIDE  
ACCURATE AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION TO  
OPINION LEADERS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL RISK, AND  
ABOUT THE INCREASING SOPHISTICATION OF  
BIOTECHNOLOGY.

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WE WILL BREAK DOWN THE FALSE PERCEPTIONS THAT  
HIGH-QUALITY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND  
BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE  
BY DEMONSTRATING THAT BIOTECHNOLOGY CAN  
REDUCE THE VULNERABILITY OF MANY QUALITY  
PRODUCTS TO PESTS AND DISEASE WHILE  
PRESERVING THEIR TRADITIONAL QUALITIES.

AT THE EU AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS (E.G. WTO  
AND UN AGENCIES), WE WILL SUPPORT EFFORTS TO  
RESTART THE APPROVALS PROCESS AND REOPEN  
TRADE, AND SUPPORT U.S. POLICY ON PRACTICAL  
APPROACHES TO LABELING AND TRACEABILITY WHICH  
ARE NON-DISCRIMINATORY. WE ALSO WILL SUPPORT  
THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE AND OTHER

EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE INFORMATION AND  
DECISION MAKING CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO BIOTECHNOLOGY.

14. MISSION ITALY'S BIOTECH ACTION PLAN -

OBJECTIVE 1: TEST THE OFT-REPEATED HYPOTHESIS  
THAT 90 PERCENT OF ITALIANS OPPOSE  
AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY. ACTION:

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AIT-03	CEA-01	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DODE-00
	ITCE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	EXME-00	E-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	ACE-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	FMP-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00
	/012W						

-----882DDB 181507Z /38

P 181411Z APR 02  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3333  
INFO WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION COLLECTIVE  
AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
USDA FAS WASHDC 2096  
USDOC WASHDC

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SUBJECT: MISSION-ITALY BIOTECH ACTION PLAN

- ANALYZE THE 2000 POLLING DATA BY REGION,  
DEMOGRAPHICS, INCOME, AND EDUCATION. (PAO,  
EARLY SPRING)  
- ASSESS WHETHER THESE DATA ACCURATELY  
CAPTURE THE BREADTH OF ITALIAN PUBLIC  
OPINION. (MISSION ITALY, LATE SPRING)

OBJEC

TIVE 2: CREATE DEMAND FOR BIOTECH IN

ITALY

ACTION:

- BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND  
FARMERS (SPG/SUMMER 2002, CG-MILAN, SCI, FAS)  
- FARMER-TO-FARMER DIALOGUE TO INTRODUCE  
ITALIAN FARMERS TO U.S. AND EUROPEAN FARMERS  
WITH FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE GROWING BIOTECH  
CROPS. (SUMMER/FALL 2002, FAS)

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- SUPPORT ITALIAN BIOTECH INDUSTRY EFFORTS  
TO CREATE GREATER ACCEPTANCE FOR BIOTECH

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OBJECTIVE 3: CONTINUE CONSUMER

OUTREACH/EDUCATION ACTION:

- EXPAND DIALOGUE WITH OPEN-MINDED CONSUMER  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS (SCI/LABOR/CGS)  
- DEVELOP LIBRARY OF KEY DOCUMENTS  
TRANSLATED INTO ITALIAN (MISSION)  
- FUTURE GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAMS: NORMAN  
BORLAUG; ALLISON SNOW; AND ALOYSIUS JUMA  
(MISSION)

OBJECTIVE 4: USE ITALIAN INTEREST IN

BILATERAL COOPERATION TO REFOCUS BIOTECH

DEBATE ON SCIENTIFIC MERITS AND BENEFITS OF

THE TECHNOLOGY ACTION:

- CONTINUE WORK WITH SANTI COMMISSION TO

DEVELOP A COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AGREEMENT.  
(FALL, SCI)  
- ENCOURAGE ITALY TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR  
BIOTECH RESEARCH AND TO BEGIN FIELD-TESTING  
BIOTECH CROPS. (ONGOING, AGR/SCI/ ECON/CGS)

OBJECTIVE 5: ADVANCE OUR EU TRADE AGENDA  
ACTION:  
- COORDINATE WITH USEU BRUSSELS AND OTHER EU  
POSTS, AS FOR EXAMPLE DURING THE APRIL ECMIN  
CONFERENCE IN ROME, TO ENSURE THAT GOI  
GENERAL SUPPORT FOR BIOTECH TRANSLATES TO  
ITALIAN PROACTIVITY WITHIN THE EU. (ECON)  
- PREPARE PERIODIC BIOTECH STRATEGY  
PROPOSALS FOR WASHINGTON AGENCIES (ECON)  
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- CARRY OUT DEMARCHES AS INSTRUCTED AND  
REPORT RESULTS AS APPROPRIATE. (ECON)  
- IDENTIFY MARKET ACCESS PROBLEMS AS THEY  
ARISE AND REPORT TO WASHINGTON WITH  
APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REMEDIAL  
ACTION (ECON/AGR)

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15. COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN EMBASSY  
ROME, EMBASSY VATICAN AND FODAG - THE CENTRAL  
FOCUS OF OUR COLLABORATIVE EFFORT IS TO RAISE  
AWARENESS OF THE ADVANTAGES OF BIOTECH FOR  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS STRATEGY HAS  
RESONANCE FOR FODAG AND VATICAN AS WELL AS  
WITH ITALIAN INSTITUTIONS, OPINION LEADERS,  
JOURNALISTS, AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. THE  
BWG TAKES ITS CUE FROM RECENT STATEMENTS BY  
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AL LARSON IN WHICH  
HE EFFECTIVELY EXPLAINS THE INTER-  
DEPENDENCIES BETWEEN GOOD GOVERNANCE,  
DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY,  
AGRICULTURE, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AIT-03	CEA-01	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DODE-00
	ITCE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	EXME-00	E-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	ACE-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	FMP-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00

/012W

-----882DE6 181507Z /38

P 181411Z APR 02  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3334  
INFO WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION COLLECTIVE  
AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
USDA FAS WASHDC 2097  
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 ROME 001942

SIPDIS

EUR/ERA FOR HEN-NIL, EB/TPP/ATT FOR PEREZ  
E FOR SHUB  
STATE PASS USTR FOR STROJE, NOVELLI  
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STATE PASS FDS FOR EFLAMM

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SENSITIVE

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SUBJECT: MISSION-ITALY BIOTECH ACTION PLAN

"WE NEED TO USE ALL THE TOOLS AT OUR  
DISPOSAL: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRADE AND NEW  
TECHNOLOGIES. IN SHORT, BIOTECHNOLOGY IS NOT  
THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT; RATHER,  
SCIENTIFICALLY-ASSESSED BIOTECH CROP  
VARIETIES ARE A TOOL FOR ACHIEVING  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT."

OBJECTIVE 1: ENCOURAGE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

TO BECOME MORE EXPRESSIVE PROPONENTS OF THE  
TECHNOLOGY. ACTION:  
- USE THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT TO BUILD  
CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF THE TECHNOLOGY.  
PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR US AND DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES TO JOINTLY ENDORSE THE BENEFITS OF  
BIOTECH AS A KEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.  
(JUNE 10-12, FODAG)  
(NOTE: SECRETARY VENEMAN HAS CONFIRMED HER  
PARTICIPATION AT THE WFS. U/S LARSON IS  
EXPECTED TO ATTEND.)  
- BUILD ON THE EINAUDI FOUNDATION SPONSORED  
VISIT OF PROFESSOR CHARLES ARNTZEN, ARIZONA  
STATE UNIVERSITY ALOYSIUS JUMA TO DISCUSS THE  
NUTRITIONAL AND HEALTH BENEFITS OF  
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BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD.  
(MAY 29-31, SCI, FODAG, VATICAN)

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- VISIT BY A DELEGATION OF AFRICAN  
BIOTECHNOLOGISTS FROM AFRICABIO, THE AFRICAN  
BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, AND PROF.  
JUMA, HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
- STRENGTHEN TIES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL  
CENTER FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING AND BIOLOGY,  
TRIESTE; AND THE OVERSEAS AGRICULTURAL  
INSTITUTE, FLORENCE. (SPRING/SUMMER, SCI)

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT EMBASSY VATICAN  
INITIATIVE TO TAKE SENIOR VATICAN DELEGATION  
TO SEE FIELD RESEARCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE  
POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

ACTION:  
- IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE VATICAN OFFICIALS TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. (SPRING/SUMMER;  
VATICAN)  
- IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE COUNTRY(IES) FOR THE  
DELEGATION TO VISIT. (SPRING/SUMMER;  
VATICAN, FAS)  
- SECURE NECESSARY FUNDING. (SUMMER;  
VATICAN, FAS, PAO)

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OBJECTIVE 3: SUPPORT FODAG EFFORT TO SECURE  
U.S. EXPERT TO ASSIST FAO IN DEVELOPING ITS  
OWN POSITION ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS  
AND BIOTECH. ACTION:  
- (MAR/APR; FODAG)

OBJECTIVE 4: CONTINUE MEETINGS BETWEEN FAO'S  
WORKING GROUP ON BIOTECH AND OUR OWN BIOTECH  
WORKING GROUP ACTION:  
- SCHEDULE LUNCH. (MAY; FODAG, SCI, FAS)

#### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 19 EU ECOMIN MTG IN ROME TO DISCUSS  
BIOTECH STRATEGY

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MAY 29-31 VISIT BY PROFESSOR CHARLES  
ARNTZEN, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY. SPONSORED  
BY THE EINAUDI FOUNDATION.

JUNE 10-12 WORLD FOOD SUMMIT, ROME

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AIT-03	CEA-01	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DODE-00
	ITCE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	EXME-00	E-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	ACE-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	FMP-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00
	/012W						

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P 181411Z APR 02  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3335  
INFO WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION COLLECTIVE  
AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
USDA FAS WASHDC 2098

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 ROME 001942

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E FOR SHUB  
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SUBJECT: MISSION-ITALY BIOTECH ACTION PLAN

JULY 10-12 RAVELLO BIOTECH CONFERENCE,  
SPONSORED BY TOR VERGATA UNIVERSITY AND THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF AGRICULTURAL  
BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

LATE SEPTEMBER AFRICABIO VISIT WITH PROF.  
JUMA, HARVARD UNIVERSITY. SEMBLER

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